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# LARRY CRAIG

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NEWS RELEASE

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## **CRAIG URGES CAUTION IN OVERREGULATING CHEMICAL INDUSTRY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Idaho Senator Larry Craig today urged the U.S. Senate to weigh the economic consequences of making politically-inspired, comprehensive changes to federal regulations governing chemicals.

Craig's call for caution came during a hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) policies on toxic wastes.

"When it comes to the management of U.S. chemicals, it often may seem better to err on the side of caution, but it's possible to go overboard in protecting ourselves from things we need," Craig said. "Chemicals are used to produce materials vital to nearly every U.S. industry and are key to our national defense and quality of life."

Craig noted that chemicals aid in making hybrid cars lighter and more fuel efficient, cleanse solar cells to increase the efficiency of solar power and maximize the ability of insulation to hold in heat during the winter and cool air during the summer to save homeowners energy and money.

He cautioned the committee that while there are serious, documented instances of toxic substances in consumer products, like lead paint in toys, a total rewrite of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TOSCA), the law governing chemical regulations, is not the solution. He said that while the committee should ensure that TOSCA is working correctly, scuttling it in a political, punitive exercise to over-regulate the industry will only serve to drive the chemical industry offshore.

"The chemical industry nationwide employs more than five million people and generates \$635 billion annually," Craig said. "In Idaho, the industry provides 2,100 jobs directly and 15,000 jobs indirectly, with an average salary over \$50,000. We should proceed with caution to strike a balance in ensuring health and protections of communities and over-regulating our economy."